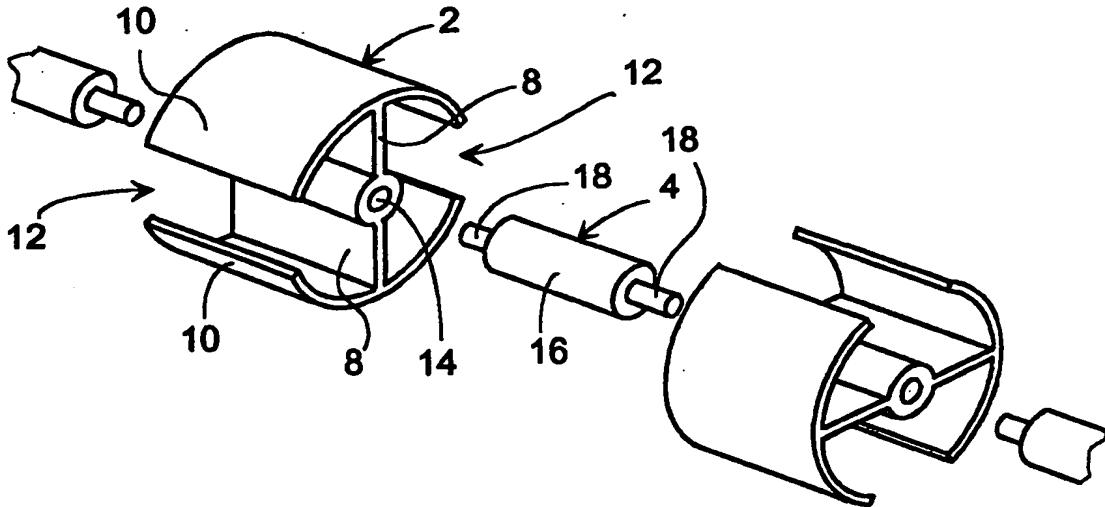




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(71) Applicant (<i>for all designated States except US</i>): RAUNKJÆR, Hans, Thyge [DK/DK]; Søren Frichsvej 42G, DK-8230 Åbyhøj (DK).				
(72) Inventor; and				
(75) Inventor/Applicant (<i>for US only</i>): BRO, Karsten [DK/DK]; Bakholmsvej 4, DK-8260 Viby J (DK).				
(74) Agent: K. SKØTT-JENSEN PATENTINGENIØRER A/S; Lemmingvej 225, DK-8361 Hasselager (DK).				

(54) Title: A SYSTEM FOR THE ROUTING OF BUNDLES OF WIRES



(57) Abstract

For the collective routing of bundles of wires, it is known to use partly open tubes composed of mutually outwardly-flexible, partly cylindrical elements which are slotted to enable the insertion of wires herein. Known configurations have certain disadvantages which are overcome by the invention, in that use is made of alternating modular elements of two completely different types, i.e. stiff wire-holding elements (2) with a core part (6) having radially-extending wing parts and shield-plate parts (8, 10), and intermediate distance elements (4) in the form of flexible rod parts for releasable assembly with the ends of said core parts (6). There is hereby achieved a tubular structure which is flexible in all directions in a non-jangling manner and which can freely be lengthened or shortened.

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A system for the routing of bundles of wires

The present invention concerns a system for the routing of bundles of wires, comprising a number of partly-cylindrical elements which are slotted to enable wires to be inserted therein, said elements being held together with a certain mutual distance between the ends of the partly-cylindrical surfaces, and in such a manner that a string of elements thus held together is more or less flexible. With such a string, it is possible to route wires in collected bundles and to insert new wires herein at any place along the string and from any sideways direction, and wires from the string can similarly be branched-out at desired places in any transverse direction.

Various configurations of such systems are known, e.g. in the form of slotted tube pieces which at the free ends have axially-projecting flanges by means of which the tube pieces are hinged together in a pivotable manner. This provides a loose-jointed and jangling structure which merely has the advantage that the string of tube pieces can be adjusted in length in accordance with requirements. With another known configuration, use is made of a through-going support string surrounded by retaining bushes, which on projecting wing parts support partly-cylindrical shield-plates, and which are mutually held together on the support string by means of axially-projecting coupling arms with pivot connection to intermediate coupling rings on the string. This configuration is less loose-jointed but, on the other hand, since the system is not easy to extend as desired, one is dependent on given lengths of string.

With the present invention, a third solution is disclosed which combines and even improves the advantages of the two known systems, and without adopting their disadvantages. According to the invention, use is made of two kinds of modular elements, i.e. wire-holding elements which are preferably made of semi-hard plastic and are built up with a central core part with radially-extending wing parts which support partly-surrounding shield plates, and distance elements which

are intended to be assembled with the ends of said core parts for mutual axial separation and securing of these, and here-with together with these to form a central core in the sys-tem, and which are preferably made of soft plastic with the 5 object of making the system as a whole flexible.

There can hereby be built up a more or less long holding system in accordance with requirements, and which is totally free of "loose-jointedness", in that it will appear as a ho-mogenous string which is suitably flexible and has projecting 10 shield parts for the implementation of the routing function.

The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the drawing, in that

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a holding sys-tem according to the invention,

15 Fig. 2 is a side view of the assembled system,

Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 are perspective views of respective system parts in a preferred embodiment thereof,

Fig. 5 is a side or plan view of same in assembled state, and

20 Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a mounting holder for an element in accordance with claim 3, and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a coupling block for es-tablishing an angular transition.

In Fig. 1 is shown a series of two different types of 25 elements, i.e. wire holders 2 and distance pieces 4. The ele-ments 2 are configured with a cylindrical core part 6 which has radially-extending wing parts 8 which at their outer ends support respective partly-cylindrical shells 10 in the forma-tion of a short tube piece which is split or has axial slots 30 12 on opposite sides. The ends of the core pieces 6 are pro-vided with central holes 14.

It will hereby be possible to effect the alternate cou-pling together of the elements 2 and 4 as shown in more de-tail in Fig. 2, in that it is also hereby possible to turn 35 the elements 2 in such a way that their outer slots 12 lie staggered in relation to one another seen in the circumferen-tial direction.

As shown in Fig. 2, wires 20 can be inserted through the slots 12 in the assembled string structure, and when extending lengthwise the wires will be held in the form of a bundle by the elements 2. Also as indicated in Fig. 2, the branching-in or branching-out of wires can be arranged at any place along the string. However, it should be mentioned that this form of holding effect on the bundle of wires is not new in itself.

The holding connections between the dowels 18 and the holes 14 can naturally be configured in such a way that a snap-lock effect is established when they are assembled, and which will make the assembled string suitably resistant against separation by an axial force, e.g. a gravitational force when the string is mounted in a hanging manner. The person responsible for assembling the string can himself determine how much the successively-following elements 2 shall be turned in relation to one another, in that they do not necessarily need to be turned 90° to one another as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

However, such a turning of precisely this 90° will be a preferred possibility, and this has been employed with the preferred embodiments of the elements 2 and 4 shown in figs. 3-5. It will appear immediately from Fig. 3 that the shield plates 10 are configured with a tapering rounded shape which, however, is primarily for reasons of design, and that the ends of the core piece 6 are not only configured with round central holes, but also with transversely radial slots 22 which end in an inner transverse enlargement 24. However, the contour 26 of a central hole is formed in the central part of the slots 22.

In Fig. 4 it is shown that the ends of the distance pieces 4 are correspondingly configured with flat, projecting ribs 28, the outermost ends of which have thickened parts 30. These parts 28, 30 will thus be suitable for assembly with the core parts 6 by sideways insertion herein, whereby a decidedly traction-stiff connection can be established. Said rib parts 28 can have central enlargements 32 which, by the sideways pressing together of the elements and by co-

operation with the enlargements 26 in the core parts 6, will result in these being snap-locked in a central position.

As shown in Fig. 4, the rib parts 28 at the opposite ends of the parts 4 are arranged orthogonally, whereby in the assembly of the string structure it will be obvious that the elements 2 are coupled together while successively turned at 90° to one another.

It could be a possibility for each of the elements 2 to be configured with an integral distance piece 4, but the use of separate distance pieces provides the advantage that the elements can be injection moulded in a more or less hard material, while the elements 4 can be moulded in a soft and elastic material, whereby the assembled string can become suitably flexible with the character of a firm, pliant rod

without link connections.

In Fig. 6 there is shown a mounting holder 34 which has a securing hole 36 for fastening to a support surface, while the holder in general is provided with arcuate rail parts 38 which at their undersides are suitable for receiving one of the curved shield plates 10 on an element 2 by the engaging of the shield plate in the holder 34. The inner edges of the rails 38 are provided with a pair of projections 40 which, by co-operation with the end edges of the associated wing plates 8, can give rise to a snap-lock effect. The shown holder is suitable for the fastening of an element 2 in a position projecting from a support surface, but a corresponding holder can be configured with a securing plate part 42 which enables an element 2 to be fastened in a position in which it lies up against the support surface.

Furthermore, the system can be provided with various special components in the form of bends, T-pieces, support feet, suspension pieces etc. In Fig. 7 there is shown a coupling piece 44 in the form of a block which, in principle, corresponds to the mounting holder shown in Fig. 6, but which is merely further provided with a socket head 46 with a recess 22 (like that in fig. 3), so that this block can be coupled in as an angular transition or T-transition between a coupling element 4 and a wire holder 2, whereby holding strings

can lead out from the block in the main directions indicated by the stippled lines.

C L A I M S:

System for the routing of bundles of wires, comprising a number of partly-cylindrical elements which are slotted to enable the insertion of wires herein, said elements being held together at a certain mutual distance between the ends of the partly-cylindrical surfaces, and in such a manner that a string of elements thus held together is more or less flexible, characterized in that the system comprises two kinds of modular elements, i.e. wire holding elements which are preferably made of semi-hard plastic and are built up with a central core part with radially-extending wing parts which support partly surrounding shield-plate parts, and distance elements which are intended for assembly with the ends of said core parts for the mutual axial separation and the securing of said core parts, and herewith together with these to form a central core in the system, and which are preferably made of soft plastic with the object of making the system as a whole flexible.

2. System according to claim 1, characterized in that at their abutting ends, the core parts and the distance elements are held together by a lateral insertion assembly between a transversely-positioned main rib part (28,30) and an undercut slot (22,24).

3. System according to claim 2, characterized in that the main rib part and the slot have co-operating snap-lock parts (26,32) for the stabilization of the assembled parts in the mutually centred position of said parts.

4. System according to claim 1, characterized in that the shield-plate parts (10) on the wire holder parts are configured in the peripheral direction with tapering, rounded contours towards their free ends.

5. System according to claim 1, characterized in that it further comprises a mounting holder (34) which is intended for fastening against an underlayer and has engagement parts (38) for coupling together with a shield-plate part by engaging this in the holder (34).

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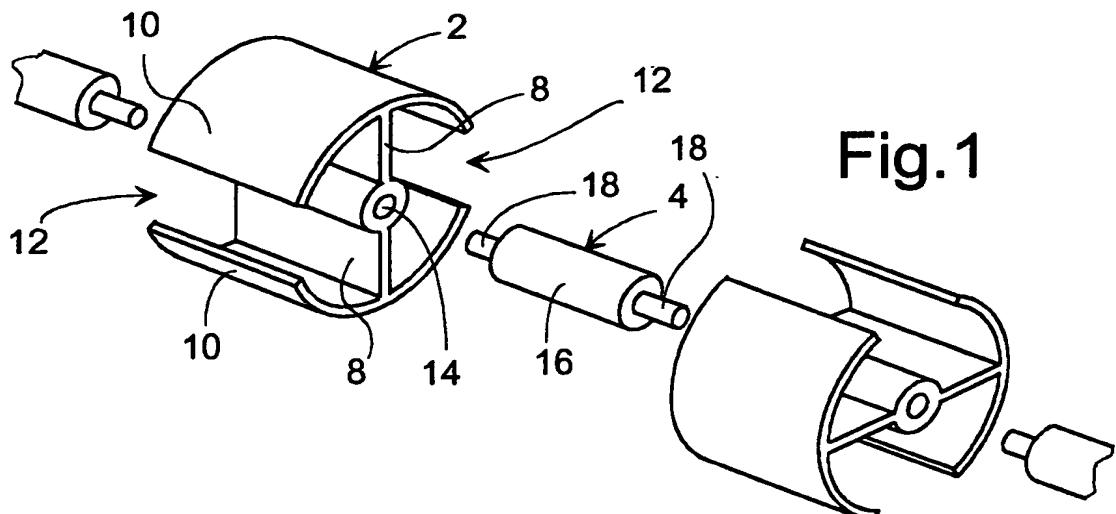
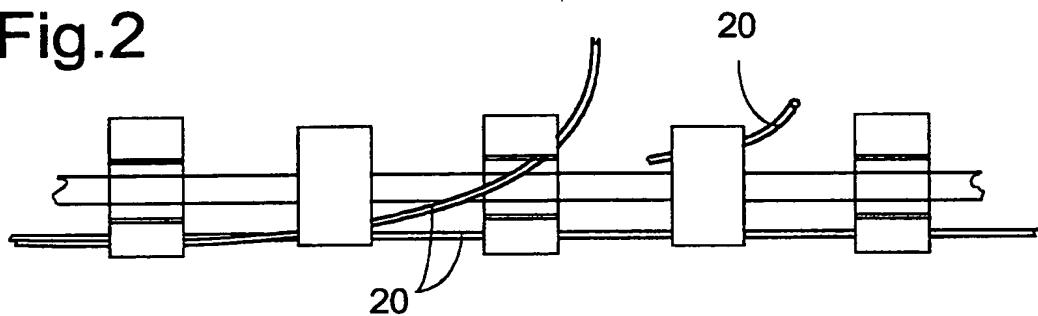


Fig. 1

Fig. 2



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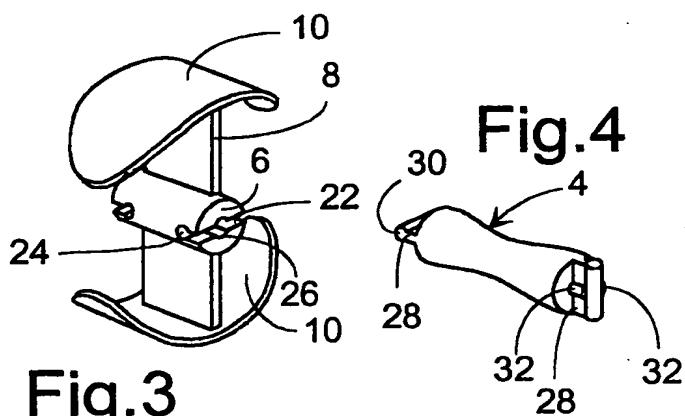


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

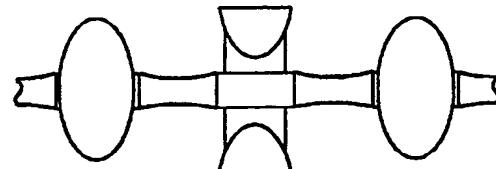


Fig. 5

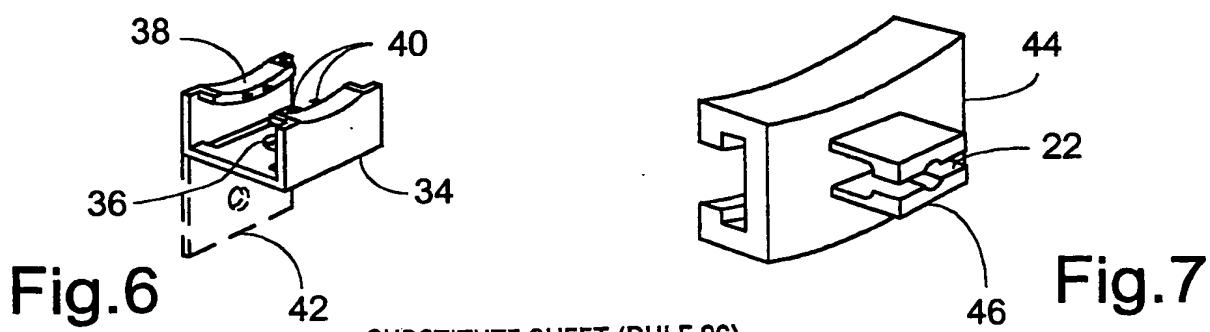


Fig. 6

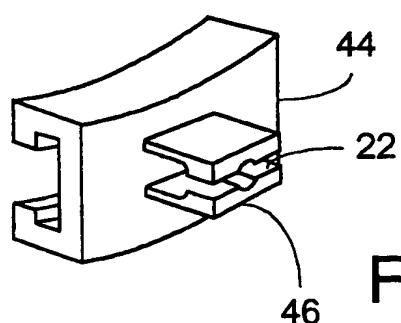


Fig. 7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/DK 98/00189

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: H02G 11/00, F16G 13/16, H02G 3/04
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: F16G, H02G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0260740 A2 (TECNO S.P.A. MOBILI E FORNITURE PER ARREDAMENTO), 23 March 1988 (23.03.88), figures 1-4, abstract --	1-5
A	US 4582281 A (VAN CAMP), 15 April 1986 (15.04.86), figures 1-28, abstract --	1
A	EP 0412233 A2 (FLORIAN WEBER AG), 13 February 1991 (13.02.91), figures 1-10, abstract --	1
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A	GB 2233163 A (COOPSETTE S.C.R.L.), 2 January 1991 (02.01.91), figures 1-9, abstract --	1
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
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